

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7709
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI IN EAST BERLIN: BIG HURRAH,
NO SUBSTANCE

REFS: (A) BERLIN 1636, (B) BERLIN 1745

1. COLONEL QADHAFI'S THREE DAY VISIT TO EAST BERLIN
CONTAINED AS HEAVY A LOAD OF POMP AND CEREMONY
AS WE CAN RECALL FOR THE VISIT OF A THIRD-WORLD
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LEADER BUT WAS NOTABLY LACKING IN SUBSTANCE. THE
TWO GOVERNMENTS DID SIGN A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR
MUTUAL COOPERATION BUT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE DID NOT
DEPART FROM THE GDR'S ESTABLISHED POSITIONS ON
VARIOUS WORLD ISSUES.

2. PERHAPS IN CONTRAST TO QADHAFI'S OTHER EAST

EUROPEAN STOPS, THE GDR PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS TO MAKE HIS EAST BERLIN VISIT A LAVISH AFFAIR OF STATE WITH A VERY FULL PLATTER OF PARADES, MILITARY REVIEWS, VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL AND CULTURAL SITES, BANQUETS, TOASTS AND THE INEVITABLE MEETINGS OF DELEGATIONS FOR FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS. THE GDR DELEGATION WAS NOTABLY HEAVY IN HIGH-LEVEL PARTY AND MINISTERIAL OFFICIALS, SIGNIFICANTLY MORE SO THAN IS NORMAL FOR A VISITING THIRD-WORLD LEADER. MEDIA TREATMENT HAS BEEN ON THE SAME LEVEL WITH THE COLONEL DOMINATING THE FRONT PAGES AND BROADCASTS FOR THE DURATION OF THE VISIT.

3. AS A REFLECTION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GDR ATTACHES TO ITS DEVELOPING LIBYAN TIES (SEE BERLIN 1745), ERICH HONECKER WAS A CONSTANT PARTICIPANT IN THE VARIOUS MEETINGS AND CEREMONIES, RATHER THAN RESTRICTING HIMSELF TO ONE OR TWO PUBLIC SESSIONS AS IS NORMALLY THE CASE WITH VISITING AFRICAN LEADERS. QADHAFI ALSO RECEIVED THE GREAT STAR OF PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP, ONE OF THE HIGHEST HONORS WHICH THE GDR CAN BESTOW ON A FOREIGNER. AS A DEPARTURE GIFT, QADHAFI DRAPED HONECKER WITH A BURNOOSE.

4. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE VISIT AND OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONSISTED OF EXTENSIVE RECITATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDARD (FOR THE GDR) POSITIONS ON PEACE, SANCTITY OF BORDERS, DISARMAMENT, ANTI-IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, RACISM AND ZIONISM, THE NEED FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, DEVELOPMENT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE LANGUAGE IN THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE NEAR EAST AND ON AFRICA AND THE ARAB REGION DOES NOT DEPART FROM ESTABLISHED GDR POSITIONS AND THUS SEEM TO FALL SHORT OF THE LIBYAN POSITION IN SOME RESPECTS. THE NEUTRON BOMB IS CONDEMNED. A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS WAS SIGNED BUT NO SPECIFIC NEW COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKINGS WERE ANNOUNCED. IF THE GDR MADE ANY HEADWAY IN OBTAINING LIBYAN OIL, IT WAS NOT COMMUNICATED TO THE EAST GERMAN PUBLIC.

5. ON BALANCE THE QADHAFI VISIT WAS A VERY BIG HURRAH BY EAST GERMAN CEREMONIAL STANDARDS BUT EVIDENTLY DID NOT INVOLVE OVERLY MUCH OF SUBSTANCE. WE HAVE HEARD FROM ARAB SOURCES AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT THERE WAS SOME BAD FEELING IN THE REGIME TOWARD QADHAFI AS A RESULT OF THE DEATHS OF WERNER

LAMBERZ AND PAUL MARKOWSKI IN LIBYA LAST MARCH (REF A).
THE SPECULATION WAS THAT THEY HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF AN
ATTEMPT ON QADHAFI'S LIFE, THAT QADHAFI HAD FORE-
KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTEMPT BUT FAILED TO STOP IT.
WHATEVER THE TRUTH, THIS VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE REMOVED ANY
SHADOW FROM GDR-LIBYAN RELATIONS. BOLEN

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